## WATSON BIRDS T



Watson Birds is a community project which aims to celebrate the life and work of Donald Watson, ornithologist and bird artist who lived and worked in St John's Town of Dalry and his son Jeff. The project seeks to raise funds to buy Donald's former home and turn it into a bird centre. We run a programme of events throughout the year to engage and involve people in birds through the arts and through a programme of science events. We work in local schools, with the local community and with bird and art experts from around the world.

Our project is led by Roger Crofts CBE and is delivered by project officers Sarah Keast and David Whyte. This project has been funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, LEADER and Awards For All and is an initiative of the Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT).

GCAT is a registered Scottish Charity No. SC032050.

Contact us: www.watsonbirds.org Email: sarah@watsonbirds.org david@watsonbirds.org Tel: 01644 430457 Post Restante: The Session House, Dalry Church, Main Street,

The 2012 festival has been supported by generous sponsorship from the following:

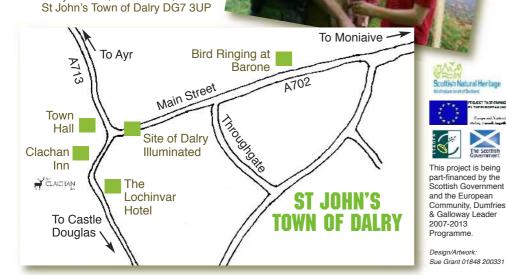
**DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COUNCIL** STEWARTRY AREA COMMITTEE



Glenkens Community and Arts Trust **TESCO** ASDA **WILKINSONS FORREST ESTATE** GG&B CKD GALBRAITH The Lochinvar Hotel









Friday 21 to Sunday 23 September 2012 **DALRY, THE GLENKENS** MUSIC **BIRD RINGING** DEMONSTRATION PHOTOGRAPHY **SINGING WORKSHOPS EVENING CONCERT** www.watsonbirds.org

## Welcome to our Watson Birds Festival 2012

In celebrating the work of
Donald Watson and his son
Jeff, as the focal point of our
Watson Birds Project, we link
birds with the arts and
sciences to give something
for all, whatever your age or
interests. You can listen to



talks and join a debate on the future of the Hen Harrier (Donald's special bird of study and painting). You can participate in making bird boxes and learn how to ring birds. You can see birds in the local countryside on our expertly guided walks. You can view and buy paintings by 14 well-known artists. You can listen to music performed by a variety of artists. And, kids, you can find plenty to do in the hall and outside.

I hope you have a enjoyable and stimulating time.

By giving a donation, you will help us to develop the project into a lasting celebration of Donald's work and an inspiration for future generations.

Roger Crofts CBE
Project Director
roger@watsonbirds.org

#### Patrons:

Duke of Buccleuch KBE DL Dame Barbara Kelly CBE DL Richard Agnew of Glenlee



## **BIRDS IN ART**



#### ■ An Exhibition of Contemporary Scottish Bird Artists 21-23 September Town Hall, St John's Town of Dalry, Dumfries and Galloway

This is the second exhibition of bird art as part of the Watson Birds Project which aims to celebrate the life and work of Donald Watson, ornithologist and bird illustrator and his son, ornithologist and conservationist Jeff Watson. Exhibiting with us this year are:

#### Bill Neill

Bill is a painter who lives and works in South Uist. The work shown here focuses on the bird life and landscape of the Uists. Paintings include one of Gannets passing Weaver's Castle near Eriskay. His aim is to capture the unique qualities of the islands: the light and the open landscape whilst exploring the individuality of the birds, how they relate to each other, and the environment we all share. For those who know the Uists, these paintings will bring the special qualities of the Isles to life and encourage those who have never visited to come and see for themselves.



#### **Darren Woodhead**

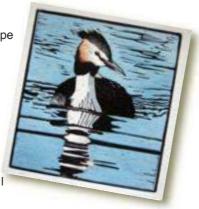
Darren is a pure field painter based in East Lothian, Scotland. A Graduate of the Royal College of Art, he works direct in brush and watercolour outside: there is no studio. Concentrating on the natural world, the paintings are atmospheres, surroundings depicting birds, landscapes, butterflies and mammals – local Scottish wildlife, as well as expeditions worldwide. His paintings are his diaries, encompassing energy, life, spontaneity and movement, and using the natural white of the paper. All works are watercolours, produced outside on location and drawn directly in brush. By working direct from life, he aims to retain the freshness and energy that working outside gives, and revels in working in often extreme weather conditions.

#### John Threlfall SWLA

In order to draw and paint birds and animals from life the focus of your looking and concentration must be total. Thereby lies the appeal. To be absolutely absorbed in your subject matter and their surroundings, to look as if you have never seen before, and so wonder at it all, is an enthralling and enchanting state to be in. Here is the true value of drawing, irrespective of the outcome. This is my way of connecting with the natural world around me, of acknowledging and celebrating the existence of other species. Back in the studio, I hope to combine these primary studies into a painting, a process of compositional arrangements of shapes, tones and colour, of texture, space, movement and mark making. If this work then can communicate to others something of the awe, the spectacle, the fascination and the beauty of the natural world then, as an artist, I have succeeded to some extent.

#### Lisa Hooper

I am a artist/printmaker living in Port William, Wigtownshire. I use a wide variety of techniques to capture pattern, light and texture in landscape, townscape and natural history subjects, particularly birds. I work using zinc plate, woodblocks, perspex (for monotypes) and other materials to create intaglio and relief printing surfaces. The natural environment is a great source of recreational pleasure, as well as an inspiration to me. Originally a career conservationist, it was the natural beauty of Dumfries and Galloway which drew me to the area. At the western end of the county, you are exposed to the elements: most obviously the sea in all its moods. The double thread – the landscape and its natural history – is what speaks to me: and that is what I am endeayouring to record and share in these works.





#### **Paul N Collin**

Paul is a dedicated birdman and conservationist having worked for the RSPB for 33 years, managing some of the best wildlife sites in the UK. He has always maintained an interest in painting birds, committing his passion and knowledge to paper using a variety of media: watercolour, acrylic and oils. His paintings have been used to illustrate the recent Bird Report of Dumfries and Galloway. Paul enjoys the splendour of birds and tries to capture accurately the plumage and character of the birds he paints. Travelling

in search of birds he has participated in a number of expeditions to China, Tibet, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Africa, India, Europe and North America.

#### **Frances Godfrey**

Frances was born in Aberdeenshire, but moved to Nottinghamshire as a child. She trained in oil painting and figure drawing under Ronald Thursby at Nottingham College of Art, otherwise she had little formal training but a lifelong love of wildlife and many years as a bird watcher and core counter for WeBS. She was made a fellow of Nottingham Society of Artists in 1985. Her work has a strong element of design and has been included in SOC journals

and in exhibitions here and in the Midlands. She and her husband settled in Balmaclellan in 1994 and had her first solo exhibition at the Ottersburn Gallery in 1998.



Ray Hawley is a retired RSPB nature reserve warden who has drawn and painted wildlife subjects from an early age. Most paintings start as field or memory sketches and are then completed in Gouache. Some drawings are also completed in black and white and subtle pencil is very important. All work has to be accurate in detail. Ray was a friend and colleague of Donald Watson for many years.



#### John Hills

I have worked for many years as a freelance graphic designer and illustrator for a wide range of clients. Wildlife illustration has always been an important part of my business, my work has appeared in numerous leaflets, magazines, books and on interpretation panels.

#### **Suzanne Stuart Davies**

I am a painter. Engaging with place, locality and nature slowly, I make colourful oil paintings: 'local paintings' – in the sense that initial inspiration comes from walks and views from windows wherever I am. I



studied Fine Art at Liverpool College of Art and subsequently qualified as a teacher. I also have a degree in philosophy and history of art from the Open University. Between 1987 and 1995 I worked for the Nature Conservancy Council in Cumbria, where I learned new ways of looking at landscape. I have a small studio near Corsock and concentrate on painting, initiating and taking part in a range of exhibitions.

#### **Brian Arneill**



The Oxford Book of British Birds illustrated by Donald Watson 1964 was my first affordable field guide to birds and my pride and joy as an 11 year old and gave me the inspiration for my own career as a naturalist and artist. I came to Dumfries and Galloway in the mid 1980s to work as a Warden for Cairnsmore of Fleet and Silverflowe National Nature Reserves. At that time, Donald Watson guided me down the road of the Society of Wildlife Artists of which he was a founder member with Keith Shackleton, Robert Gillmor and others. For 30 years I have been fortunate to exhibit widely throughout the UK and Ireland, mainland Europe, North America and Australasia. Most notably, on three occasions I exhibited at the Birds in Art exhibition held annually by the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Museum, Wisconsin, USA.

#### **Keith Brown**

Although my background is Civil Engineering, for as long as I can remember I have sketched and painted. The first painting I completed was 28 years ago; however, it is during the last eight years that I have exhibited at various locations throughout Scotland. I have always had a keen interest in Natural History, more significantly I have been drawn to the sandbanks, the ebb and flow of the tide and the wild ducks and geese that migrate to the shores of the Solway Firth and other parts of the British Isles. I have



spent most of my life in Glencaple, a small village on the east bank of the River Nith. For me, this is the perfect place to live as this location, coupled with the changing light of the sunrise and sunsets and the comings and goings of the bird life and other wildlife, which inhabit the surrounding area, provides endless images to paint and sketch

#### **Malcolm Davies**

I trained as a printmaker and painter at Liverpool College of Art where I specialized in lithography, screen printing and illustration. I subsequently trained as an art teacher and taught in colleges, art centres, art galleries and museums before becoming Head of Education and Interpretation Services for Lancashire Museums and Galleries. My subject matter is the fauna and flora of the Scottish coast and countryside, with a particular emphasis on birds and the working landscape. Ideas for paintings and prints can also be linked to lines from prose and poetry which conjure up images of birds and wild creatures as symbols of love, longing and superstition. I sometimes include quotes or references from poets or writers known to me, in or around the images.



#### **Natalie Vardev**

I make many different collections of jewellery in silver and gold and each collection is different. In some, knitting, crochet and fine wirework is a feature, and in others the detail is in the perspective and contrast of the materials. Sometimes this is emphasised with oxidised silver which I leave either matt black or burnish to gunmetal grey. Some pieces are kinetic, and in some the movement is just an illusion. My designs develop

quickly once I am at the bench, having first spent what can seem an age exploring a word, a theme, or a technique which establishes each collection. Contrast of light and balance is my foundation, underpinned by an admiration and respect for all the jewellers who made stunning work before the invention of electricity. The flight of the red kite has always fascinated me and it has been wonderful to witness its successful reintroduction to the area. I feel privileged to be able to marvel at such sights from the window of my studio up in the Galloway hills. When I thought of making red kites in red gold, wanting to make something special for the area, it seemed the obvious partnership. Golden eagles in yellow gold is another.

#### **Linda Mallett**

I have lived and worked in Galloway since the 1970s, dividing my time between individual studio practice and collaborative work in the public art field, as artist, curator and project manager. I have long been drawn to the in-between nature of the shoreline and how it changes with each tide. The birds that inhabit this zone are also migratory and seasonal – the lapwings that move further inland in the summer, the guillemots

that move out to sea in the winter, the geese that migrate between Svalbard and the Solway. These works are drawings (or limited-edition etchings) based on photographs I have taken round the Galloway coast or on visits to Shetland. The photograph is then digitally re-worked and specially printed using archive-quality ink and paper, as a base for freehand drawing into and over the print with mixed media (mainly graphite). In this way, I hope to retain the quality of detail from the photograph with the intuitive expressiveness of freehand mark-making.



## KIDS EVENTS



#### ■ Friday 21 September

During the first day of our festival we will be running some special workshops for the pupils of Dalry Schools.

#### **Story Telling**

Anne Errington will be providing some bird themed story telling for us in Dalry School. Anne has worked in the Adventure Playground movement, run a small theatre company and worked with young men in secure units and Young Offenders Institutes Her stories are about people and their contact with the gods, fairy folk and other supernatural beings. They come from all over the world and can come from different cultures, myths and legends or from their folklore.

#### Singing workshop

Jo Miller will be running workshops on songs and tunes about birds in the school. Jo is a singer and fiddler who has worked in music education for over 30 years; privately, in schools, with Local Authorities, and in the Higher Education sector. She has written materials to support the teaching of traditional music in the Scottish school curriculum, including a web-based package for Learning and Teaching Scotland. She teaches in Stirling, and runs the Riverside Music Project which supports family and community learning of traditional music.

#### ■ Saturday 22 September 10.30am - 12am

# B

#### **Bird Box Building**

Back by popular demand! We are running more bird box building – come and give it a try (it's not just for children!) on Saturday morning 10.30am – 12am just outside the Town Hall in St John's Town of Dalry. Our bird box building will be led by local RSPB staff: George Christie and Calum Murray.

#### **Children's Art Activities**

There will be some bird art activities in the Town Hall between 10.30am and 12am on Saturday 22 September. Come and make a bird with us!

Children from Dalry in Edinburgh meeting to exchange birdy facts with children from Dalry Dumfries and Galloway at the Galloway Red Kite Feeding Station as part of the Watson Bird

## WATSON BIRDS TO

## **PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

#### ■ FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2012

## 10am - 4pm ART EXHIBITION DALRY TOWN HALL

Artists: Bill Neill, John Threlfall, Lisa Hooper, Brian Arneill, Darren Woodhead, Frances Godfrey, John Hills, Keith Brown, Linda Mallett, Malcolm Davies, Natalie Vardey, Paul Collin, Ray Hawley and Suzanne Stuart Davies.

#### 12am - 2pm EVENTS IN DALRY SCHOOLS

Story Telling workshops in Dalry School with Anne Errington. Singing workshops with Jo Miller.



#### ■ SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2012

10am - 4.30pm ART EXHIBITION DALRY TOWN HALL



#### 10am GUIDED BIRD WATCHING WALK

This year our walk will be led by Chris Rollie (RSPB). Please bring stout footwear and a waterproof just in case. Meet at Dalry Town Hall.

## 10.30am - 12am SINGING WORKSHOP LOCHINVAR HOTEL FUNCTION ROOM

With Jo Millar. No previous experience required.

## 10.30am - 12am CHILDREN'S ART AND CRAFT ACTIVITIES

#### **DALRY TOWN HALL**

Come and try out some bird art activities with our volunteers, or make your own bird box.

## 2pm - 4.30pm WATSON RAPTOR SCIENCE LECTURES THE PLIGHT OF THE HEN HARRIER

LOCHINVAR HOTEL FUNCTION ROOM (lunches available)

Presentations and discussion on the state of Hen Harrier conservation on the 35th anniversary of Donald Watson's seminal book on this bird – 'The Hen Harrier'.

## 7pm EVENING CONCERT DALRY TOWN HALL

This year we are delighted to bring you two very special events. Our first half will comprise a unique musical experience entitled "You can't let nature run wild" – a spoken and musical response to moorlands. This will be performed by a collection of musicians from Langholm and beyond, part of 'Making the Most of Moorlands' project. For the second half of our concert please come and welcome "home" Jo Miller. Jo is a singer and fiddler who grew up in Dalry and has worked in music education for over 30 years. She will be accompanied on stage by her sons Neil (accordion, fiddle, vocals) and Owen (flute, guitar, vocals) for a programme of songs and tunes all about birds.

#### 8.30pm - 10pm DALRY ILLUMINATED

Photographs from Dalry School Photography Club Room 13 and Donald Watson artworks projected onto buildings in Dalry.

#### **■ SUNDAY 23 SEPT 2012**

10am - 4pm ART EXHIBITION DALRY TOWN HALL



## 9.30am - 12.30am BIRD RINGING DEMONSTRATION BARONE, 54 MAIN STREET

Join Andrew Bielinski of the North Solway Ringing Group, and RSPB, for a demonstration of bird ringing and learn how bird ringing has helped our understanding of bird migration and populations. This will be weather dependent.

#### 3pm MELLOW MUSIC ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Harpist Rhona Mackay and friends provide a relaxing afternoon's music in the Bothy Room of The Clachan.

### MUSIC



#### ■ Singing Workshop Saturday 22 September 10.30am -12.00am

#### Singing workshop

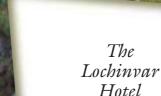
Birds sing and so do we. This year we are able to offer a chance to take part in a singing workshop at our Bird Festival. Jo Millar will be performing for us on Saturday night and she is also running a 'come and try' singing workshop for us. Jo leads two community choirs in the Stirling area. No need to read music and no previous experience required. Join us at the Lochinvar Hotel function room.

#### ■ Saturday Night Concert 7pm Dalry Town Hall

#### You can't let nature run wild; a moorland musical

We are very excited to present a unique musical event at this years' Bird Festival. 'You can't let nature run wild' is a musical and spoken commentary on issues facing the Moorland. It provides a fascinating artistic response which complements this year's science seminar on the plight of the Hen Harrier in Scotland.

It was facilitated by the 'Making the Most of Moorland' project in Langholm and brought together creative writers and musicians to develop this original work. It is performed by a collection of musicians and performers from Langholm and beyond, part of the 'Making the Most of Moorlands' project. We welcome them to Dalry for this event.





#### Jo Miller with Owen and Neil Sutcliffe

Jo Miller was brought up in St John's Town of Dalry where her father was the Minister. She now lives and works in the Stirling area and we are delighted to welcome her back to Dalry for tonight's special performance with her family. Jo is a singer and fiddler who has worked in music education for over 30 years. She will be accompanied on stage by her sons Neil (accordion, fiddle, vocals) and Owen (flute, guitar, vocals) for a programme of songs and tunes all about birds.

In the 1980s, Jo researched music making in The Glenkens, and has a unique collection of local music which she will be tapping into for this performance. In the 1990s, she founded the BA (Scottish Music) degree at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where she taught till 2005. She teaches traditional music classes in Stirling, including two community choirs, and runs the Riverside Music Project which supports family and community learning of traditional music. Jo is also currently a research student at Sheffield University.

#### ■ Sunday afternoon music 3pm - 4.30pm The Bothy, Clachan Inn

#### **Rhona Mackay Trio**

Join us for an afternoon of mellow music in the Bothy Room of the Clachan Inn, Dalry. The Trio features Rhona MacKay on harp and clarsach, Eddie McGuire on flute and Sonia Cromarty on cello. Rhona is one of Scotland's most versatile harpists and former Principal Harpist of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Sonia graduated from

RSAMD with first class honours and performs with Scotland's leading orchestras, including the BBC Scottish Symphony and Scottish Opera. Eddie is a much celebrated composer who also performs with and writes for The Whistlebinkies. Together they create a spell-binding, beautiful blend of music.





### RSPB SCOTLAND SUPPORT



#### ■ Saturday 22 September 10am

#### **Guided Walk with Chris Rollie**

The walk from the Town Hall will follow one of Donald's favourite routes – not really possible to predict what we'll see, but hopefully a good representation of Glenkens birds, and maybe butterflies if the sun shines?

Chris is Area Manager with RSPB Scotland in Dumfries & Galloway, Chairman of D&G Raptor Study Group, native of Ayrshire now resident in Dalry and was a close friend of Donald Watson.

If joining us on the walk, please be aware this is on an unsurfaced countryside path. The walk will take around 1.5 to 2 hours over moderately uneven ground and will include a small amount of uphill walking. Please wear stout footwear and bring warm and waterproof layers in case of inclement weather.

After our walk, why not head to one of our local hotels for a spot of lunch. Clachan Inn and Lochinvar Hotel are both serving lunch before our afternoon events commence.



#### ■ Sunday 23 September 9.30am-12.30am

#### **Bird Ringing Demonstration with Andrew Bielinski RSPB**

Join Andrew Bielinski of the RSPB and North Solway Ringing Group for a demonstration of bird ringing. Hear about how bird ringing has helped our understanding of bird migration and bird populations and see birds in the hand. This will be weather dependent. Andrew will be capturing ringing and releasing birds in Donald Watson's Garden, Barone, 54 Main Street, Dalry. Many of Donald's small bird paintings were made from direct observation in his wildlife friendly garden and visiting birds include spotted flycatchers which sometimes still

nest in boxes provided by Donald.

#### **Galloway Kite Trail**

Red kites are one of the UK's most attractive birds of prey, reintroduced here between 2001 and 2005. The Galloway Kite Trail, just south of Dalry, is a circular route around beautiful Loch Ken. It includes the original release site (Secret Cages), a kite feeding station and information about kites and other local attractions.

RSPB Scotland's Calum Murray will be at the feeding station near Laurieston each afternoon to interpret kites and the local area to visitors. See www.gallowaykitetrail.com or contact RSPB Scotland on 01556 670464 for more information.

## WATSON RAPTOR SCIENCE PRIZE LECTURES



#### Saturday 22 September 2012

#### THE PLIGHT OF THE HEN HARRIER

2012 marks the 35th anniversary of the publication of Donald Watson's classic book 'The Hen Harrier'. Sadly, this is now one of our most threatened birds – it has virtually ceased nesting in England, and is scarce in southern Scotland.

We are holding an event to mark the importance of this bird, and to hear about some of the new and exciting research being carried out.



Chris Rollie is RSPB Area Manager for Dumfries and Galloway and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the birds and naturalists of the area; Eric Meek has lived and worked in Orkney for more than 30 years and is the widely recognised expert on Orkney's birds; Aly McCluskie is one of our most active raptor researchers with a special flair for communicating his work; and Brian Etheridge is the Scottish Raptor Monitoring Scheme Officer with vast hands-on research experience of raptors, notably red kites, honey buzzards, sparrowhawks and hen harriers. Professor DSB Thompson will chair the event. Des leads the Watson Raptor Science Prize panel.

## WATSON BIRDS \*\*\*

#### Our vision

"To celebrate the work of Donald and Jeff Watson by linking birds, landscape, arts and community in the Glenkens, and especially St John's Town of Dalry, to inspire, enthuse and benefit local communities and visitors".

#### **Donald Watson** 28 June 1918-7 Nov 2005

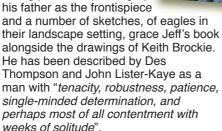


Donald was the most prolific bird artist in Britain of his generation illustrating the 'Oxford Book of Birds', Derek Ratcliffe's seminal work on the Peregrine Falcon, Desmond and Maimie Nethersole-Thompson's classics on Greenshanks and on Waders, and his own masterpiece on the Hen Harrier: described as 'a classic marriage of bird study and art that stimulated a generation of field ornithologists and artists'. His paintings and sketches number many thousands.

He captured the imagination of many through his paintings and writing.

#### Jeff Watson

24 Dec 1952-19 Sept 2007 Inspired and encouraged by his father, Jeff became the world's acknowledged expert on golden eagles and published the definitive book on this magnificent bird. Fittingly, it has a painting by



## **WATSON BIRD CENTRE**

#### **Donation Form**

Name:	Amount:
Address:	
	Postcode:
☐ Please tick if you are a UK tax payer and would like us to reclaim tax via Gift Aid on this donation.	
Send completed form and cheque (made payable to Glenkens Community and Arts Trust) to:	

Glenkens Community and Arts Trust, The CatStrand, High Street, New Galloway DG7 3RN For more information on the project see our website; www.watsonbirds.org

### **WATSON BIRD FEATHERS**

help us to celebrate birds & the arts

Our fund raising campaign is based on the three birds in our logo: the Golden Eagle for which Jeff was an international expert, the Hen Harrier - Donald's signature bird and the Swift which nests annually in the village.

We invite you to join one of our three clubs. Pay by lump sum and/or instalment.

## The Eagle Club

Become a Founder Patron by making The request a donation of over £10,000.

**Donor recognition** 

An annual reception for you and your family with the Patrons and Project Leaders at the annual Dalry Bird Festival, a special guided visit to Donald Watson bird and painting sites, names listed on donation board, on the web site and in newsletters (subject to individual donor agreement), a certificate in the form of a primary feather of a golden eagle, and regular updates on progress with the project.

Your help will make a real difference by allowing us to build on the successful events held so far and to build a more imaginative and enticing programme of interest to everyone.

We aim to raise £100,000 to fund our activities and events programme for the next five years.

## The Harrier Club

The request Donations of £1,000 to £10,000.

**Donor recognition** 

Names listed on donation board in the centre (subject to individual donor agreement), a certificate in the form of a hen harrier wing feather, and regular updates on progress with the project.

#### The Swift Club

The request Donations from £100 to £1,000

**Donor recognition** 

A certificate in the form of a swift tail feather, and regular updates on progress with the project.

## WATSON BIRDS



#### Contact:

**Roger Crofts CBE Project Director** Tel: 07803 595267 or 0131 661 7858 Email: roger@watsonbirds.org www.watsonbirds.org

#### Volunteer with Watson Birds

There are opportunities to help deliver the Watson Birds Programme ranging from one-off events to regular slots.

To get involved contact sarah@watsonbirds.org or call 01644 430457